

TEAM NEWS

Together Everyone Achieves More

Division of Student Support & Innovation and Office of Special Education

December 2015

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Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Over the last few weeks, history has been made with the new reauthorization bill, *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), quickly being approved at all levels.

- December 3, 2015 U.S. House voted to approve the bill (359-64)
- December 9, 2015 U.S. Senate voted to approve the bill (85-12)
- December 10, 2015 President Obama signed the bill into law

In the many months ahead, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) will receive guidance and have an opportunity to participate in trainings on the new law. The NDDPI will eventually need to write a state plan and receive approval from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). Current adequate yearly progress (AYP) requirements are effective through August 1, 2016. The bill allows for a transition period for states to align their new accountability system (which takes effect at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year) to the new requirements. Schools and districts that have been identified for program improvement must continue to implement any interventions required under those authorities until states have a new Title I plan approved.

Key areas of interest include:

- Class Size Reduction Class size reduction remains an allowable activity under the new Title IIA program.
- **Schoolwide** Although the new bill maintains the 40% poverty threshold for schoolwide, there now is an option for any Title I school, regardless of their poverty percent, to request a waiver from the state if they can demonstrate a benefit to going schoolwide.
- **Paraprofessional Requirement** The paraprofessional requirements are maintained in the new bill.
- **Program Improvement** Although states will still be required to identify low performing schools under ESSA, the number of schools will be a significantly smaller. District program improvement, the 100% proficiency requirement, and supplemental educational services are eliminated.

Mark your calendar to attend one of three regional trainings to learn more about the reauthorization, what changes will occur, and what the final requirements will entail.

April 7, 2016 Cambria Hotel & Suites West Fargo, ND April 12, 2016 Grand Hotel Minot, ND **April 13, 2016**Baymont Inn & Suites
Mandan, ND

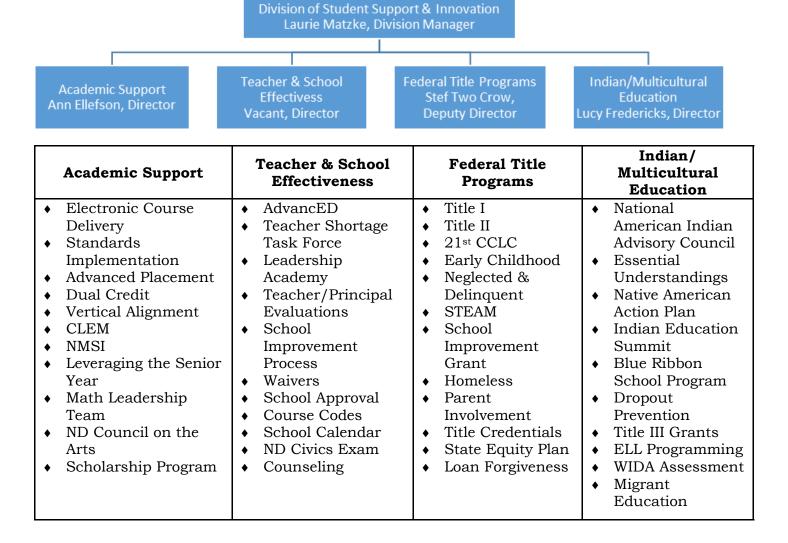
Division of Student Support & Innovation

Manager's Report by Laurie Matzke

Welcome the Office of Teacher & School Effectiveness into the Division of Student Support & Innovation

As of December 1, 2015, the NDDPI moved the Office of Teacher & School Effectiveness into the Division of Student Support & Innovation.

The benefit of this change is there will be increased collaboration and more seamless services to our North Dakota districts and schools. We will have more program staff available to dedicate time to initiatives, such as consolidated applications, AdvancED visits, and providing guidance and technical assistance for school personnel. We are currently in the process of hiring a director for the Office of Teacher & School Effectiveness. Once our division is fully staffed, we will revise our district contact chart to reflect all division staff and the districts assigned under their purview.



Office of Special Education

Director's Report by Gerry Teevens, Director

Newly Released Resources to Help Support Students with Disabilities

On November 29, 2015, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA is a civil rights law, guaranteeing a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to millions of children, who just 40 years ago were excluded from the American education system.

In an effort to remind us as educators, advocates, parents, and policymakers, that we need to continue working toward creating a culture of high expectations; ensuring students with disabilities have full access to college- and career-ready learning opportunities and assessments; and supporting students with disabilities so that they may excel in the general curriculum for college and career success, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice have released several resources including the:

<u>Dear Colleague Letter: Clarification of FAPE and Alignment with State Academic</u>
<u>Standards</u>, which clarifies that individualized education programs for children with disabilities must be aligned with state academic content standards for the grade in which a child is enrolled.

<u>IDEAs That Work: Preparing Children and Youth with Disabilities for Success</u> website will connect teachers and families with resources to assist them in improving instruction and supporting academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students with disabilities as they become college- and career-ready.

<u>Supporting and Responding to Behavior: Evidence-Based Classroom Strategies for</u>
<u>Teachers</u> toolkit, which summarizes evidence-based, positive, proactive, and responsive classroom behavior intervention and support strategies for teachers.

All resources including the *Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Implementation Blueprint and Self-Assessment* (for local and state education agents) and *Age of Majority Parent Guide and Tip Sheets* can be found here.

For any questions or additional information, please contact the NDDPI Office of Special Education at (701) 328-2277.



Decision on Title I Credentials

On October 20, 2015, the NDDPI disseminated a statewide memorandum and survey pertaining to the current Title I credentialing system to gather public feedback regarding the idea of repealing the Title I credentials. The idea was proposed to help address the current North Dakota teacher shortage by reducing barriers to attract teachers to the state, particularly in rural areas. The department sought this feedback to inform the decision making process. This credentialing system is not a requirement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) but is part of the North Dakota Administrative Code (also known as administrative rule).

The NDDPI values the current Title I credentialing system, but also recognizes the challenges faced by educators, schools, and districts. Since the department is in the process of updating its entire set of administrative rules, this was the most logical time to have a discussion regarding the credentialing system.

The NDDPI received a favorable response with over 300 people responding to the survey. Based on the responses received, approximately 65% voted to repeal the credentials and approximately 35% voted to keep the credentials. The majority of those voting to keep the credentials submitted comments strongly voicing their opposition to repeal.

It is the decision of the NDDPI to maintain the Title I credentials, however, to add flexibility by making multiple changes through the administrative rules process. Our intent is to begin making changes through the administrative rules process beginning in January 2016. We anticipate the new regulations would go into effect on July 1, 2016. Outlined below are some of the changes we intend to make to provide more flexibility to our North Dakota educators, schools, and districts.

- <u>Provisional Renewals</u> Teachers who do not have the required coursework are able to get a provisional Title I credential that gives the individual two years to obtain the required coursework. We intend to revise this section to allow individuals to extend their provisional if they were unable to obtain the coursework during the two-year timeframe.
- <u>Veteran Teacher Exemption</u> We intend to revise the administrative rules and add an exemption for veteran teachers that waives the additional coursework requirements for teachers who have seven or more years of contracted teaching experience.
 - This will allow veteran teachers who would like to move into a Title I position to do so without having to obtain the additional coursework. Teachers will still need to be highly qualified as determined by the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB), and have a major in a core academic content area. The highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirements in NCLB are eliminated in the newly reauthorized federal law known as the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). All HQT laws and rules will be reviewed during the next North Dakota legislative session.
- <u>Waiver</u> We intend to revise the administrative rules to add a new waiver section. Schools that can demonstrate the inability to find a credentialed Title I teacher can apply for a waiver to use Title I funds to pay for non-credentialed staff to perform Title duties, but must have a major in a core academic content area.

The NDDPI believes it has outlined a fair compromise to meet the needs of educators, schools and districts. This plan maintains our high standards and expectations for the staff who work with our most at-risk and vulnerable students, while still providing flexibility and options.

If you have questions or would like to offer additional recommendations for consideration as we begin the administrative rules process in January, please email <u>Sandy Peterson</u> or call (701) 328-2170.

Valley City's Washington Elementary Named Blue Ribbon School



Congratulations to Washington Elementary School of Valley City for being recognized as one of the nation's prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools.

"Very few schools have what it takes to receive this award," Superintendent of Public Instruction Kirsten Baesler said. "The people of Valley City, the people at Washington Elementary, and certainly the people of North Dakota should recognize how well Washington Elementary has to do, and how much their students have to achieve, in order to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School."

The USDE announced that Washington Elementary was one of the 285 public and 50 private schools recognized nationwide as a Blue Ribbon School in 2015. Washington Elementary has about 240 students in grades four through six.

The Blue Ribbon program honors schools where students either achieve very high learning standards, or make substantial improvements in learning. Baesler said Washington Elementary was given the award as an exemplary high-performing school.

The USDE honored Washington Elementary and the nation's other Blue Ribbon Schools at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in early November. On November 24, 2015, the Valley City Public School District hosted its own celebration with a welcome from Mr. Dean A. Koppelman, Superintendent of Valley City Public Schools. Comments were made by distinguished guests Senator John Hoeven; Senator Heidi Heitkamp; Ashley Kelsch, Representative for Governor Jack Dalrymple; and State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

A video, created by Mr. Bryan Kriewald, was shown prior to the presentation of Blue Ribbon School Award by Superintendent Baesler. Closing remarks were provided by Chad Lueck, principal of Washington Elementary School. Refreshments were hosted by Washington Elementary PTO.

"The Department of Education scrutinizes all applications very thoroughly, and there's a very high bar of high expectations to meet in order to be awarded this prominent recognition," Baesler said. "We should all be proud of the students, teachers, administrators and parents of Washington Elementary."



Dean A. Koppleman, Superintendent of Valley City School District



Supt. Dean Koppleman; Ashley Kelsch; Sen. John Hoeven; State Supt. Kirsten Baesler; Principal Chad Lueck; Sen. Heidi Heitkamp



Chad Lueck, Principal of Washington Elementary

District Financial Reminders

Budget Revision Guidance

With the mid-point of the school year rapidly approaching, districts are reminded of the importance of managing and maintaining their federal Title programs budgets.

Districts should be completing budget revisions as changes occur throughout the school year. Districts must submit a budget revision and get prior approval in order to claim these expenses. If a district expends funds without the appropriate approval, the district risks that the expenditure will not be an allowable expense and, therefore, the unallowable expense must be covered with another funding source, such as general funds.

If you have any questions regarding federal Title budgets, please communicate with the district's assigned Student Support & Innovation contact person, or the fiscal agent assigned to that program:

- ♦ Title I Shauna Greff
- ♦ Title II Jane Gratz
- ♦ Title III Jill Frohlich
- ♦ Homeless Heidi Merkel
- N & D Angela Thomas

Federal Title Mid-Year Financial Reports Due

The Mid-Year Financial Report (SFN 7822) for federal Title expenditures from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 is due to the Office of Federal Title Programs by **Wednesday, January 20, 2016.** This report **should not** be submitted until January 2016, as it must include all expenses through December 31, 2015.

Please note that districts **will need to complete** a mid-year financial report for all federal Title funds including: Title I, Title II, Title III, Homeless, and N & D.

The memo regarding Mid-Year Financial Reports will be emailed to all districts. The form and guidance can be found on the department's website at www.nd.gov/dpi/forms/.

Assurance of Time/Periodic Certification

Districts that have federally funded personnel must complete an assurance every six months (at a minimum), documenting the time staff worked in each particular federal program. Since December is almost halfway through the school year, we felt it was appropriate to remind districts of the following:

- All staff paid with federal Title funds must sign an assurance.
- The individual and their supervisor must both sign the assurance.
- These assurances must be completed at least twice a year and cannot be signed and dated before the time has occurred. In other words, an assurance from August 15 (or the first day of school)—December 31, 2015 must be signed after December 31, 2015.

The assurances do not need to be submitted to the Office of Federal Title Programs, rather they must be kept on file in the school or district office. Information and sample documentation for this requirement can be found at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Resources/timeandeffort/ on our website.

Title II Carryover Funds – New Policy

Historical protocol in the NDDPI required districts that carried over Title II/REAP funds into the subsequent school year must have those carryover funds obligated by December 31. The funds had to be paid out and requested from the NDDPI mid-January.

The NDDPI is revising our policy on the Title II carryover funds. Effective immediately, districts will have the entire 2015-2016 school year to use their Title II carryover funds.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please email <u>Laurie Matzke</u> or call (701) 328-2284.



Title I Schoolwide Reminders

2015-2016 SCHOOLWIDE PLANNING YEAR SCHOOLS:

- Continue schoolwide planning team meetings and share information with all staff
- Complete comprehensive needs assessment process (diagnostics in ASSIST)
- Complete goals and plans in ASSIST
- Create plans to document required schoolwide components
- Upload documentation of Title I Schoolwide Assurances in ASSIST
- Participate in professional development and/or study groups
- Review schoolwide training materials, reminder memos, and website for resources
- Schedule and document parental involvement training opportunities

CURRENT SCHOOLWIDE SCHOOLS:

- ♦ Submit Schoolwide Documentation Tool if transitioning to ASSIST
- Complete documentation for comprehensive needs assessment
- Identify and document goals/objectives
- Conduct regularly scheduled schoolwide planning team meetings
- Update information in selected online tool (NDMILE or ASSIST)
- Update plans for documenting the required schoolwide components and include supporting documentation for Title I monitoring
- Participate in professional development and/or study groups
- Review schoolwide training materials, reminder memos, and website for resources
- Schedule and document parental involvement training opportunities

Advanced Placement Survey Reminder

The NDDPI Office of Academic Support is gathering information on what school and district needs are for Advanced Placement (AP). As many of you are aware, the 2015 Legislative assembly appropriated funding to increase access to AP courses and to increase the number of passing scores on the AP exam.

The NDDPI will be starting an AP initiative and we would like your input on a good starting point. The department was awarded \$1.2 million to make North Dakota AP more robust. Some of the initiatives that we are considering include:

Professional Development:

- Offering an AP Summer Institute Intensive one week workshop for AP teachers in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science focused on content and instructional strategies. (We need to survey how many teachers would be interested and in what content areas.)
- Offering several one day workshops that are designed to provide current AP teachers with course updates, review of the latest exam results, sharing of best practices, and targeted support of challenge areas. The first series of workshops will be held on January 21, 2016.

Online Courses:

- Covering a portion of the student's cost of an online AP course taken through North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE).
- Provide a stipend to a mentor teacher in a school that will monitor and support students taking online AP courses through NDCDE.
- Provide a pilot of AP Insight in Biology or Chemistry. This is an online service to teachers and students that provides instructional resources, formative assessments, modules on challenge areas, and tools to track student progress.

Exam:

Provide full or partial funding to cover the cost of the AP exam for all students in math, ELA, and science.

Scholarship:

Provide a scholarship for one graduating senior per county. Criteria for the scholarship would require a student to have taken at least one AP course in math, ELA, or science and have earned a 3+ on the exam.

A survey that focuses on the AP Summer Institute and what the interest is for schools looking to increase their AP participation was e-mailed to all superintendents, secondary principals and current AP teachers. Remember to please complete the online survey by January 15, 2016. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey please email <u>Russ Ziegler</u> or call (701) 328-2629.











Advanced Placement Course Workshop

The NDDPI is happy to announce upcoming Advanced Placement (AP) Course Workshop on January 21, 2016. Participants will be provided with some of the best tools and techniques for helping students acquire the skills needed to excel in AP classrooms.

The goals of the one-day workshops are to help teachers:

- Align their instruction with the goals of the AP course
- Identify the skills and knowledge that the exam will assess, and identify the tasks and materials for which students might need more preparation
- Make equitable access a guiding principle in designing instruction

Participants will receive a variety of materials including:

- The free-response materials from the most recent exam (student samples, scoring guidelines and commentary)
- Multiple-choice questions and answers from the prior released exam

Participants will be reimbursed for substitute teacher pay and registration fee and have the option to register for the following workshops.

- ♦ Science—AP Biology
- ♦ Math—AP Calculus AB
- English—AP English Language Composition

Register here or for more information, please email Russ Ziegler or call (701) 328-2629.

Advanced Coursework Opportunities – Dual Credit and Advanced Placement in North Dakota

As Superintendent Baesler visits with students across North Dakota, many of our high school students have asked for more opportunities for advanced coursework in the form of dual credit and Advanced Placement courses. This also includes International Baccalaureate (IB) courses; however, at this time they are not being utilized in North Dakota.

The department is fully committed to offering opportunities for our students and communities which includes offering more advanced coursework whether that be through dual credit or Advanced Placement. This does not have to be an either/or situation. Schools and districts are encouraged to explore all opportunities and utilize those that best meet their students' needs.

Students across the nation, including students in North Dakota, have many opportunities to participate in dual credit courses. However, North Dakota ranked 51st in the nation in Advanced Placement courses taken per capita and 50th in the percentage of students who took an AP exam in high school. The department's most recent initiatives regarding AP are to focus on moving the state from dead last in the nation. The department does not support one advanced coursework opportunity over another, rather, the department's goal is to move forward and increase opportunities and participation in both dual credit and Advanced Placement.

Research has shown that student participation in advanced coursework such as dual credit or Advanced Placement increases student achievement at the postsecondary level. The likelihood that they will finish college and incur less debt increases. The department, in collaboration with the North Dakota University System, is working to empower students with information and choices for their future. The department values and has made it a priority to support all types of advanced coursework opportunities for students.

High School Diploma Options

One important role that schools strive to achieve is helping their students receive their high school diploma so that they may take the next step, whether choosing to go to college or start their career. Preparing students to be college and career ready can be accomplished through a variety of methods, and there is no one-size-fits-all or cookie-cutter formula that works one-hundred-percent of the time. Even if one particular model is found to be successful for a great number of graduates, not every student fits in a mold. In the earnest quest to help all students reach high school graduation, many options have been developed in order to assist students to be successful.



Recently, discussion has arisen amongst educators which brings into focus how well various options may, or may not, be contributing to increasing high school graduation rates. The options available were studied by the educational research organization Achieve, which published a graduation requirement report in October 2015. One question asked within this study included: Does a high school diploma mean that students are ready for what comes *next?* This question varies by state and by which colleges or universities a student may pursue, or which career a student might enter upon high school graduation. The gap between high school graduation and college and career readiness is so wide in some instances that educators worry that students are being set up for failure.

As more options are developed to meet the needs of high school students, some questions for the field may include:

- Are there minimum graduation requirements which students must meet to graduate?
- What are the minimum high school graduation requirements for my state?
- Will these minimum high school graduation requirements assist my student in becoming prepared for college or a career? How can I find out?
- Are there options which assure that these minimum requirements are met?
- Does my state offer more than one type of high school diploma? If so, what are the types? What are the requirements for each of these options?

For more information regarding this topic, the following references may be useful: Graduation Requirements: How the States Got their Rates. Achieve, 2015. Retrieved from http://www.achieve.org/how-the-states-got-their-rates on November 30, 2015.

Mangan, K. (2015). High-school diploma options multiply, but may not set up students for college success. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Retrieved from http://chronicle.com/article/High-School-Diploma-Options/233829 on November 30, 2015.

Application Process Changes for Out-of-State Electronic Course Providers

As required by the NDCC § 15.1-21-15, the NDDPI has developed a coherent process for all Out of State Electronic Course Delivery Providers to apply for approval in the state. In the next couple of weeks, the NDDPI's procurement officer will be posting our electronic course delivery application for the 2016-2017 school year. This information will be made available online at https://apps.nd.gov/csd/spo/services/bidder/main.htm. Any out of state vendors providing electronic courses to North Dakota schools, who intend to apply for approval, must follow the guidelines outlined on the application.

Once the application has been posted, potential providers will need to contact the listed procurement officer with any questions concerning the application process, as NDDPI personnel (specifically the Office of Academic Support staff), are not allowed to answer questions specific to the application process during the solicitation.

It should also be noted, this is the only opportunity for the state to solicit applications. Once the application deadline has expired, the state can no longer accept applications throughout the school year, as was done in the past.

If your district is working with course delivery providers from out-of-state, it is imperative they apply for approval so you can continue to utilize their services for 2016-2017. If you are unsure, please use these scenarios to help make the determination:

Scenario 1:

Student is receiving instruction from an out-of-state electronic course delivery provider and all decisions pertaining to student grades and granting credit is determined by the out-of-state provider. In this situation, the NDDPI's approval of the electronic course delivery provider is required.

Scenario 2:

Student coursework is available or provided as a supplement through an out-of-state electronic *curriculum provider*. All decisions in regard to grading student work and granting credit are determined by a North Dakota highly qualified teacher. In this situation, the NDDPI's approval of the electronic course delivery provider is not required.

This process does not pertain to the North Dakotas Center for Distance Education as they are an online program within North Dakota and meets all state requirements.

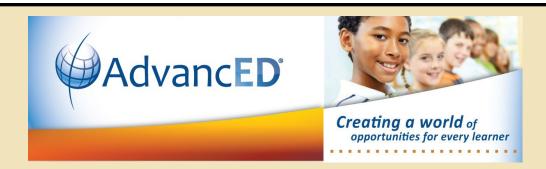
We have enjoyed working with each of our out of state providers throughout the years and hope to have the opportunity to continue serving the schools of North Dakota together.

North Dakota Statewide School Improvement Process AdvancED Visits Underway

The School Improvement Process for North Dakota schools has become a streamlined model for growth that has evolved from a once-a-year analysis of a school's progress to being an intricate part of daily life in North Dakota schools.

The NDDPI and AdvancED have embarked on a partnership to assist schools in their school improvement efforts. During the 2015-2016 school year, 26 schools and 4 school systems will take part in a two-day onsite visit by AdvancED. Teams of 5-7 education professionals along with one NDDPI staff member assist in the review. This is an exciting time for us at NDDPI, as many of us are former educators and administrators. We welcome the time we spend in schools working with teachers, students, parents, administrators, and school boards as they unfold their challenges and take pride in their education accomplishments. We are pleased to be a part of this process which insures schools are successful in their efforts to improve education to all students.

In addition, North Dakota AdvancED has announced Betsy Deal as the new North Dakota State Coordinator for AdvancED. In this capacity, Betsy will be your primary contact for questions regarding your continuous improvement work and preparations for your review. Betsy brings several years of experience in North Dakota as a teacher, instructional coach and elementary principal to the position. You can email <u>Betsy</u> or contact her by phone at (888) 413-3669, ext. 5739.



A Deep Dive into Data and Continuous Improvement Planning

Are you looking for help to utilize your data to develop a quality continuous improvement plan? If so, this is the workshop for you and your team. This is a hands-on learning experience where participants will be utilizing the data from their schools to create a continuous improvement plan. In order to get the most from this training, it is recommended that schools complete their AdvancED surveys and other diagnostics prior to the workshop. Registrants also will receive a list of suggested data that they can bring to the workshop. This will enable them to use their own school data.

To register for these workshops please select which location you would like to attend:

- Grand Forks January 12, 2016
- Fargo <u>January 13, 2016</u>
- Minot January 20, 2016
- Mandan <u>January 21, 2016</u>

ND STEM Conference Coming in April

Great ideas will be sprouting and blossoming this spring at the state STEM conference in Grand Forks on April 22-23. This year's theme, "Growing Together," expresses not only the value of professional learning, but also the importance of growing through collaboration across disciplines. For the second year in a row, K-12 teachers in science, technology, engineering, and math will gather to participate in workshops and presentations on best practices in STEM education.

State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler will kick off the conference, introducing keynote speaker Don Wettrick, author of the popular book *Pure Genius: Building a Culture of Innovation and Taking 20% Time to the Next Level.* Wettrick, who is the Innovation Coordinator at Noblesville High School just outside Indianapolis, hosts an internet radio program, InnovatED. He has worked as a middle school and high school teacher, educational and innovation consultant, and educational speaker. Don is passionate about helping students find their educational opportunities and providing them with the digital tools they need to give them a competitive edge.

Returning by popular demand will be Amelia Terrapin, founder of Mobius, a science curriculum taught through creative movement. In her session, "Using Movement to teach STEM in the Classroom," Terrapin will once again demonstrate the power of learning through dance.

The conference is sponsored by the ND Science Teachers Association, the ND Council of Teachers of Mathematics, ND STEM, UND STEM, the North Dakota Council on the Arts, and the NDDPI. It is funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Upwards of 600 teachers are expected to attend the conference to learn about the latest strategies and concepts within their respective fields as well as those that cross traditional discipline boundaries. Educators should plan to come early for special STEM events scheduled for Thursday evening on the UND campus.

Potential presenters are invited to submit a <u>proposal</u> for a conference session. Later this winter, more information and registration will be linked at <u>www.NDSTA.k12.nd.us</u>, <u>www.ndctm.k12.nd.us</u>, and <u>www.ndstem.org/</u>.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Program

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Program was established in 1983 by the White House and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). This year the program will identify outstanding science (including computer science) and mathematics teachers teaching grades K-6. Teachers are identified in each state and the four United States jurisdictions. These teachers will serve as models for their colleagues and will be leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics teaching.

In 2016, up to ten state finalists will be selected, five in each group of Math and Science. From these 2016 state finalists, a national committee will choose two national level awardees, one in each award group from North Dakota. Each national awardee will receive a \$10,000 personal award and an all-expense paid trip to recognition events and other activities in Washington, D.C.

Please nominate an outstanding teacher from your school district. A nomination form found at www.paemst.org/ will start the process and can be completed by anyone. All nominations are due April 1, 2016. Teachers can start submitting applications now and the deadline is May 1, 2016.

If you have questions, please email <u>Paul Keidel</u> (PAEMST State Coordinator for math and science, including computer science) or call (701) 425-2020.

Homeless Update Historical Gains for Homeless Children and Youth in the Every Student Succeeds Act

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) applauded the inclusion of nearly all of NAEHCY's recommendations to strengthen education programs for homeless youth in the ESSA.

The new law improves the education of more than 1.3 million children and youth experiencing homelessness – from early childhood through high school graduation.

"The bill signed today is the culmination of a decade of advocacy and represents the best practices in educating homeless students from states and school districts across the country," said Barbara Duffield, NAEHCY's Director of Policy and Programs. "We look forward to working with schools, communities, families, and youth to implement these historic gains."

Under ESSA, the new law:

- Provides appropriate school personnel with the training to identify, enroll, and support homeless children and youth.
- Assists young homeless children to access early childhood programs.
- Boosts academic achievement by ensuring that homeless children and youth can stay in the same school when it is in their best educational interest.
- Improves high school graduation and college readiness by maximizing credit accrual, ensuring college counseling and access to financial aid, providing school stability during the vulnerable transition from middle school to high school, and requires states to report disaggregated achievement and graduation data for homeless youth.
- Increases dedicated funding for school district efforts to educate homeless children by over 20 percent and increases local flexibility to use additional federal funding streams to serve homeless children and youth.

Homeless children and youth represent 2.3 percent of all school-age students and 30 percent of all school-age students living in extreme poverty. These children and youth face basic educational challenges, such as lacking supplies and a reasonable environment in which to do homework. Their learning is compromised by high rates of mobility, hunger, illness, mental health conditions, abuse, neglect, and trauma.

For many homeless children and youth, school is their best lifeline. The NAEHCY believes that ESSA will assist students experiencing homelessness to help reach their dreams – by helping them complete high school and continue on to higher education – their best hope of avoiding poverty and homelessness as adults.



ELL Resources

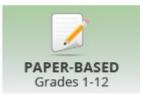
ACCESS 2.0 Resources

♦ NDDPI Webinar - ACCESS 2.0 Resources: www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/IME/Resources/Presentations_Recordings/

- Requirements for Testing:
 - o Test Coordinators and Test Administrators:
 - Must complete interactive training checklists on the WIDA website to be certified to test
 - All Test Coordinators/Administrators need the new online ACCESS 2.0 Grades 1-12
 - Test Coordinators/Administrators need NEW training depending on what assessments they will be administering: Kindergarten ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, Paper-Based ACCESS
 - Technology Coordinators:
 - Complete a specific tech checklist. It is a PDF checklist housed on the WIDA AMS
 - Technology coordinators only need accounts to the AMS site
- ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Training Courses: The training courses are available online at www.wida.us/client/index.aspx (a WIDA login is required) and appear as follows:







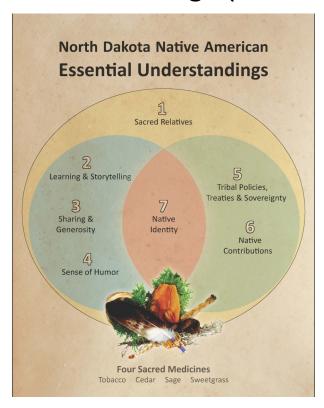


- **WIDA Accounts:** To obtain a WIDA account for training purposes, please either contact your district coordinator or email Lodee Arnold or call (701) 328-1876.
- WIDA Account Management System (AMS) Accounts: District Coordinators received an email from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) regarding their WIDA AMS account setup. Find out who has this access for your district. This individual is responsible for the following:
 - Creating WIDA AMS user accounts and assign permissions for your School Test Coordinators, Test Administrators, and Technology Coordinators
 - Reviewing and completing all applicable steps listed in the interactive checklist of the WIDA Training Course
 - o Ordering materials for the district (unless school coordinators are designated)

To obtain an account in the WIDA (AMS), please contact your district coordinator or <u>Lodee</u> Arnold.

- **Preparation Resources** are available on <u>WIDA'S Preparations Resources page</u>.
- **Prepare Your Staff!** ACCESS 2.0 preparation webinars are available on the WIDA website for your testing staff. They are specific to Technology Coordinator, Test Coordinator, and Test Administrator. To register, go to www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx.
- Pre-ID File has been sent to DRC
 - Test coordinators please review student information for accuracy
 - Test coordinators should be able to input accommodation information beginning the week of December 21, 2015

North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings (NDNAEU)



The NDDPI is pleased to announce the North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings (NDNAEU) resource document is now complete and is available for all schools in North Dakota.

The document outlines the benefits of School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler's goal of broadening knowledge of North Dakota's tribes among all of the state's students. It is coupled with a series of video interviews of tribal elders, who describe the importance of passing on their knowledge of history and traditions to young people.

Statistics show that graduation rates of North Dakota's American Indian students lag behind those of their non-Indian counterparts. Baesler said it is crucial to North Dakota's future prosperity that all Native students graduate from high school ready for college, a career, or the military.

"It is important for the vitality and future of North Dakota to make sure that all of our students do well in the classroom," Baesler said. "Our state needs to have

all of our students achieving at high levels, and currently we have a significant part of our state's population where the academic achievement gap is not closing."

All North Dakota students will benefit from learning about different cultural perspectives, Baesler said. The resource document is designed to foster cultural dialogues and encourage critical analysis of historical and contemporary issues, the superintendent said.

The Essential Understandings document includes information about the importance of Native American connections to their relatives and all living things; the uniqueness and common identity of tribes; the promotion of culture, language and tradition through storytelling, sharing and humor; and the status of tribes as independent, sovereign nations.

To share a free copy of the resource document with all educators in your school/district, go to www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/IME/Programs_Initiatives/IndianEd/understandings/ to download and print.

The ultimate goal of this document is to increase learning, understanding, and well-being among all North Dakota students, educators and communities. It our hope that these seven NDNAEU can create a framework for learning that will foster culturally responsive outcomes.

NDNAEU Phase II Pilot Schools and Educators Committee

The NDDPI Office of Indian/Multi-Cultural Education invites you to submit an Application for Selection to serve as a committee member and pilot school for the North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings (NDNAEU), Phase II.

The NDDPI is seeking 50-60 school administrators and school educators to serve on a committee to pilot Phase II of the Essential Understandings model and curriculum in public and private schools. Ideally, the NDDPI would like to see small teams of 2-3 administrative leaders/teacher leaders from each school that applies.

Phase I of the NDNAEU was completed this fall. Phase I involved the development of the 7 North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings (NDNAEU) which include short and extended descriptions. The development of the 7 NDNAEU is to guide the learning of both Native and non-Native students across the state. The NDNAEU are a starting point for creating a framework that will foster cultural perspectives.

Applications are to be submitted electronically to the procurement officer at ctollefson@nd.gov or faxed to (701) 328-2461; applications are **due by December 28, 2015 by 3:00 PM CT**. Please contact the procurement officer by email to get a copy of the Application for Selection of North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings, Phase II Pilot Schools and Educators.



Parent Involvement Resources



The NDDPI's Division of Student Support & Innovation, Office of Indian/Multicultural Education is in the process of developing monthly communication resources for schools to disseminate to parents each month. Research has shown that students do better in school when their parent/guardian is actively involved. A monthly, one-page resource template is outlined below to assist schools in encouraging parent/guardian involvement. This template is customizable to meet school needs.

For each month, the resource includes ideas and opportunities that could be shared with parents. The resources are certainly not inclusive and staff is encouraged to add their own creative ideas and activities related to their school/district. The parent involvement resources for January are available on our website at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/IME/Programs_Initiatives/IndianEd/parentinvolvement/.

Native American Needs Assessment Action Plan

Survey Question	Identified Need	Potential Solutions-Strategies		
1. Areas Where Improvement is Needed	Professional development for paraprofessionals	Disseminate information on Special Education trainings for paraprofessionals. Promote attendance at annual paraprofessional conference-June, 2016 Disseminate information on the recently approved REA professional development grant for paraprofessionals- December 2015 Newsletter Paraprofessional educator, new professional development modules		
	Teacher retention/more Native American Teachers	Disseminate information to Native American schools as strategies are implemented as outlined in our State Equity Plan Disseminate information to Native American schools that arise due to the Teacher Shortage Task Force		
	Attendance problems	Bring in renowned speaker Stephanie Feldner to address Native American schools in conjunction with NDASSP winter conference- March 24, 2016		
	Dropout prevention	ND Rural Dropout Prevention Project-resources and tools, webinars/Webcasts available on DPI website under IM Unit Bring in renowned speaker James Anderson to address Native American schools in conjunction with NDASSP winter conference- March 24, 2016		
	Parent involvement	Develop a monthly communication tool for parents that we would disseminate each month to schools- Also in Monthly Newsletter		
2. Professional Development Needs	Move time together for professional development (i.e., grade level meetings)	Encourage Native American districts to apply for Title II reallocated funds for professional development. Priority given to Native American schools. Develop guidance on freeing up time for in house professional development		
	Technology needs	Disseminate information on upcoming STEAM related professional development Disseminate links to new STEAM resources once available		
	Professional development to increase student engagement and strengthen reform efforts	State apply to participate in the Turnaround Arts Program Picture Writing Workshop-Preference given to schools with a high population of Native American students- June 13-17, 2016 Disseminate information to Native American schools on new "Coaching" plan, as priority will be given-2016		
3. How Can the Division of Student Support & Innovation Help?	Supply information on opportunities for Native American students	Division of SS&I committee- create resources to disseminate to Native American schools outlining opportunities for Native American students (by grade span)-Use of Social Media and on DPI Website		
	Integrate cultural awareness with curriculum and programming	Implementation of the ND Native American Essential Understanding Project NDNAEU- Phase II Project Implementation		

Office of Indian/Multicultural Education Sponsors Speakers at NDASSP

The Division of Student Support & Innovation, Office of Indian/Multicultural Education will be sponsoring two renowned speakers for the upcoming NDCEL North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principal (NDASSP) conference on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck, ND.

The two speakers are:

- Stephanie Feldner, Co-Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment from Gillett, WI. The Topic of her session will be "Attendance".
- James Anderson, son of America's Rib King "Famous Dave" Anderson from Minneapolis, MN, Native American Success Speaker and Motivational Speaker (Inspire-Educate-Motivate-Influence-Entertain). The topic of his session will be on "Dropout Prevention and Motivating Students".

Paraprofessional Resources

The NDDPI, Office of Indian/Multicultural Education will develop and disseminate information and resources on training and professional development for paraprofessionals. The information and resources can be used for schools/districts to communicate to their staff and paraprofessionals. We will disseminate a quarterly resource page for paraprofessionals and school staff.

The following information could be disseminated to school staff including paraprofessionals:

- Para Educator Annual Conference June, 2016 University of Jamestown in Jamestown, ND Sponsored by NDCASE – Past Contact Amber Hartmann (James River SPED Unit). More information will posted on the NDDPI website at www.nd.gov/dpi.
- REA Northeast Education Services Cooperative (NESC) in Devils Lake has established a Training Module for Paraprofessionals that is focused on the North Dakota State Standards and effective instructional strategies for implementation of the Standards. The eight Regional Education Agencies (REA) will be using this module and the NESC trainer to facilitate one to three training workshops per REA. For more information on professional development please check the REA websites below:
 - Northeast Education Services Cooperative (NESC)
 - Mid-Dakota Education Cooperative (MDEC)
 - ◆ South East Education Cooperative (SEEC)
 - Red River Valley Education Cooperative (RRVEC)
 - Great Northwest Education Cooperative (GNWEC)
 - Roughrider Education Services (RESP)
 - Missouri River Education Cooperative (MREC)
 - North Central Education Cooperative (NCEC)
- ♦ Special Education Trainings These are secured through each of the Special Education Units. More information can be found at www.nd.gov/dpi
- Special Education Para Educator Modules Available at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/SpecialEd/Paraprofessional/
- North Dakota Approved Assessments for Meeting Paraprofessional NCLB Requirements Para Educator NOW Professional Development Series is available at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Programs_Initiatives/TitleI/Para/

For questions or more information please contact Jill Frohlich at <u>imfrohlich@nd.gov</u> or Lucy Fredericks at <u>lkfredericks@nd.gov</u>.



North Dakota Alternate Assessment Update

The North Dakota Alternate Assessment (DLM) is designed to map a student's learning throughout the year. There are two testing phases: The Instructionally Embedded phase, which occurs November 9, 2015-February 29, 2016, and teachers will assess the required grade level Essential Elements (EEs) listed below and create an instructional plan for each EE, using the ND-DLM test blueprint documents for English language arts and mathematics. The English language arts and mathematic blueprints are located on the ND-DLM page.

During the spring testing window (March 16-June 5, 2016) students are re-assessed on a subset of the previously tested Essential Elements. The DLM system selects five testlets per content area, five English language arts and five mathematics. The instructionally embedded results will factor into the spring assessment results and be included in North Dakota's overall accountability report. Please consult with your local alternate assessment coordinators or Special Education Unit Director for more information, or visit the ND-DLM web site at: http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/northdakota

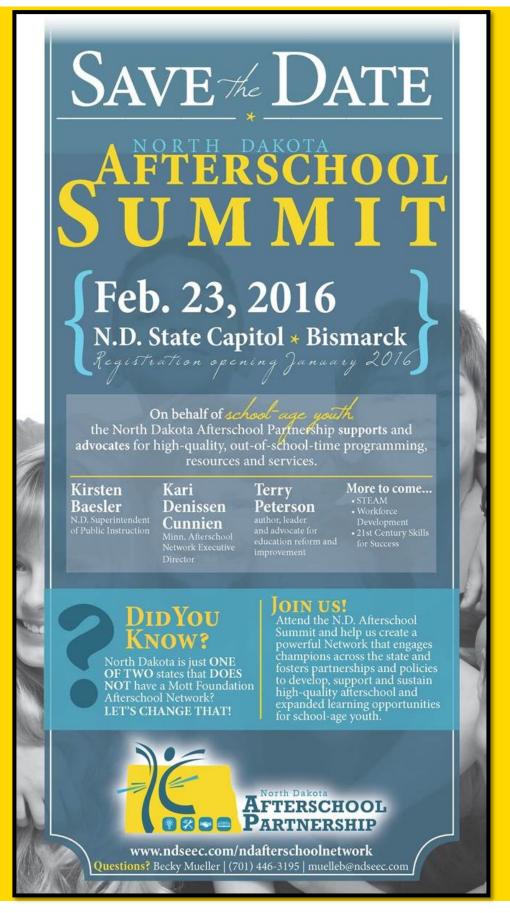
ND-DLM Dynamic Learning Maps 2015-2016 Time Line and Requirements

Grade Level	Instructionally Embedded Window November 9, 2015 – February 29, 2016		Spring Assessment Window March 16 - June 5, 2016	
	Required Num- ber of ELA EEs*	Required Number Math EEs*	System Selects ELA EEs	System Selects Math EEs
3	7	6	5	5
4	7	8	5	5
5	7	7	5	5
6	7	6	5	5
7	7	7	5	5
8	7	7	5	5
9*	10	6	5	5
10*	10	6	5	5
11	10	6	5	5

^{**} Grade 9 & 10 are optional for the DLM instructionally embedded window, and will not be included in the spring assessment window.

^{*} Each EE is assessed one time only, during the instructionally embedded window. If the required number EEs are not assessed the students' scores in the spring window will not accurately reflect the students' proficiency levels.

^{*} For the spring assessment window, the DLM Test Delivery System selects and automatically generates student testlets. Teachers do not create or confirm instructional plans (spring window ONLY) in Instructional Tools Interface.



THE DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT & INNOVATION IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE NUMEROUS UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE BEING PLANNED FOR SPRING/SUMMER OF FOR 2016





ND STEM Conference April 22-23, 2016 Grand Forks

(credit will be offered)



Math Summer Institute
June 13-14, 2016
Mandan (credit will be offered)

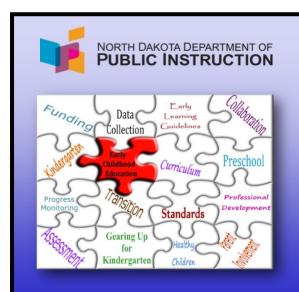








Additional information on all of these events can be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/events/ on the NDDPI website.



SAVE THE DATE

Early Childhood Conference April 14, 2016

Radisson Hotel, Bismarck North Dakota

Registration Available Soon

www.nd.gov/dpi/Administrators/FTP/Programs_Initiatives/ECE/



Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through Art ND Heritage Center, June 13-17, 2016

SAVE THE DATE!

The NDDPI is excited to announce a partnership with North Dakota Council on the Arts and North Dakota Humanities Council which will bring *Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through*

Art to Bismarck North Dakota. Due to the collaboration of these three agencies this professional development will be provided free of charge. Educators are responsible for their travel expenses.

Educators who participate in *Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through Art* will receive the following:

- Five full days of hands-on training in the Picturing Writing process,
- An option to receive two graduate credits,
- Four educator manuals,
- One poetry resource folder,
- Five classroom posters,
- Seven lesson exemplars, and
- Classroom pack of high-quality art materials.

Priority will first be given to:

- Educators working in the Bureau of Indian Education schools with a high percentage of Native American students,
- Educators working in a school with a student population consisting of 40% or more at or above poverty level, and
- Educators working in a school implementing a schoolwide program.

SAVE THE DATE!

July 12-15, 2016

Science

English

Mathematics



LAYING THE FOUNDATION



Magic City Campus High School—Minot, ND
Two credits offered



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Sponsored by

Division of Student Support & Innovation Registration information coming soon!





Connect More

Other newsletters published by NDDPI:

North Dakota AFTERSCHOOL Update

21st Century Community Learning Centers

STEAM Newsletter

Title II B—Math Science Partnership

North Dakota Homeless Education Program

Updates on McKinney-Vento and other homeless information

Directions Newsletter

Roundup Newsletter

Administrative Updates

Child Nutrition & Food Distribution

Research/Resources Report

Research and resources on educational issues relevant to North Dakota schools

ND ExcELLing Educator

Title III—English Language Learner programs

ConnectED

NDDPI Quarterly Newsletter

Flickertail Newsletter

Discovery Newsletter

North Dakota State Library

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Upcoming Events
Additional information regarding NDDPI-sponsored events is available at www.nd.gov/dpi/events/

Additional infor	mation regarding NDDPI-sponsored events is available at <u>www.nd.gov/dpi/events/</u>
January 2016	Advanced Placement Course Workshop January 21, 2016 in Mandan, ND
February 2016	North Dakota Afterschool Summit February 23, 2016 in Bismarck, ND
March 2016	2016 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities March 6-9, 2016 in Oklahoma City, OK
April 2016	Reauthorization Regional Workshop April 7, 2016 in West Fargo, ND
	Reauthorization Regional Workshop April 12, 2016 in Minot, ND
	Reauthorization Regional Workshop April 13, 2016 in Mandan, ND
	2016 2nd Annual Early Childhood Education Conference April 14, 2016 in Bismarck, ND
	ND STEM Conference April 22-23, 2016 in Grand Forks, ND
June 2016	<u>Math Summer Institute</u> June 13-14, 2016 in Mandan, ND
	<u>Picturing Writing Workshop</u> June 13-17, 2016 in Bismarck, ND
	Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) Training June 20-24, 2016 TBA
	Reading Summer Institute June 21-22, 2016 in Mandan, ND
July 2016	Laying the Foundation Training July 12-15, 2016 in Minot, ND
	3rd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit July 12-13, 2016 in Bismarck, ND
October 2016	Northern Plains Law Conference on Students with Disabilities October 3-5, 2016 in Bismarck, ND



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www.nd.gov/dpi/

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